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**From:** Wooden-Aguilar, Helena [Wooden-Aguilar.Helena@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 8/26/2022 3:52:20 AM  
**To:** Kenney, James, ENV [James.Kenney@state.nm.us]  
**CC:** Nance, Earthea [Nance.Earthea@epa.gov]; Baizel, Bruce, ENV [Bruce.Baizel@state.nm.us]; Gonzalez, Iris [Gonzalez.Iris@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Re: Media inquiry

Secretary Kenney - thank you for reaching out and sharing the media inquiry below. We look forward to connecting next week. Have a great evening and weekend. Best, Helena

Helena Wooden-Aguilar  
Acting Deputy Regional Administrator, Region 6  
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On Aug 25, 2022, at 6:13 PM, Kenney, James, ENV <James.Kenney@state.nm.us> wrote:

Hi Earthea and Helena,  
FYSA, our Governor's Office is receiving requests about the EPA ozone efforts (see below). I know we are speaking next week and I'd like use that time to hear from EPA on the path forward with approximate policy and administrative process timelines (letters to governors, grant funding changes, etc.). I'm also hearing from state and federal legislators on state agency budgeting needs but unable to help them help us.

To be candid, it is a bit frustrating that we're in the position of responding to media inquiries and legislators based on the information EPA shared with the public but without federal/state consultation. Let's fix that on Tuesday.

Thank you,  
Jim

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**From:** Sackett, Nora, GOV <Nora.Sackett@state.nm.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 25, 2022 3:29 PM  
**To:** achedden@currentargus.com  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] PRESS INQUIRY REQUESTED

Adrian, appreciate your patience!

Broadly speaking, the governor supports the right of all New Mexicans to breathe clean, healthy air. A non-attainment designation is not a matter of policy or "support" – the fact is, ozone levels in the Permian Basin are at all-time highs, adversely impacting the health of residents in southeast New Mexico. We find ourselves in this situation largely because of the massive neglect by the previous administration to dedicate the resources needed to address this growing problem.

The deteriorating air quality in southeast New Mexico is exactly why we needed the nationally leading emissions reductions rules in the oil and gas industry. We are confident that the new regulations spearheaded by the Lujan Grisham administration in collaboration with the industry and other stakeholders will result in reductions of ozone-causing air pollutants. However, these reductions will likely take some time to take effect.

This administration firmly believes that we do not have to sacrifice the health of our people to maintain a strong and viable oil and gas industry in our state. There can be a balance and we believe that is exactly what we achieved through our regulations.

Thank you!

Nora

**Nora Meyers Sackett** (she/her)  
Press Secretary | Office of the Governor  
Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham

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**From:** Hedden, Adrian <[achedden@currentargus.com](mailto:achedden@currentargus.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 25, 2022 10:46 AM  
**To:** Sackett, Nora, GOV <[Nora.Sackett@state.nm.us](mailto:Nora.Sackett@state.nm.us)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] PRESS INQUIRY REQUESTED

Hi, Nora! Yes, I saw the news. I hope the governor gets well soon. And thanks for the update. I appreciate your help on this and will look out for the response this afternoon.

Much appreciated!

**Adrian Hedden**  
Senior Reporter

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**From:** Sackett, Nora, GOV <[Nora.Sackett@state.nm.us](mailto:Nora.Sackett@state.nm.us)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 25, 2022 10:44 AM  
**To:** Hedden, Adrian <[achedden@currentargus.com](mailto:achedden@currentargus.com)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] PRESS INQUIRY REQUESTED

Hey Adrian, sorry I missed your call! Having a bit of a morning over here as I'm sure you saw. We should be able to make your deadline today.

Nora

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**From:** Hedden, Adrian <[achedden@currentargus.com](mailto:achedden@currentargus.com)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 24, 2022 2:45 PM  
**To:** Sackett, Nora, GOV <[Nora.Sackett@state.nm.us](mailto:Nora.Sackett@state.nm.us)>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] PRESS INQUIRY REQUESTED

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Good afternoon,

I'm working on a story on air pollution in the Permian Basin, particularly focused on the EPA's potential designation of the region in New Mexico and Texas as "non-attainment" of federal air quality standards. This could lead to restrictions in future oil and gas permitting and activities, and was opposed by Texas Gov. Greg Abbott as an "attack" on the industry.

I know New Mexico's recent emissions regulations at NMED were intended to prevent such a designation, and the EPA is expected to decide in September giving the agency about a month to make a decision.

Does the governor support the EPA designating the Permian Basin in non-attainment?

What's her response to worsening air quality in the region? Has the industry responded adequately to calls for better emissions controls?

What actions might the state take if the federal government does implement these added restrictions?

Let me know if you can help me out. My deadline is about 2 p.m. tomorrow afternoon.

Thanks,

**Adrian Hedden**  
Senior Reporter

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